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WEATHER SUMMARY, OCTOBER 1969 - SEPTEMBER 1970

Montana experienced an "open winter" with temperatures averaging very close to normal. There were no widespread severe storms; although some sections did experience brief, local blizzard conditions on several occasions. October 1969 was the coldest October since 1925 in most sections of the State. Mild weather became established during November and for the most part continued through February except for below normal temperatures east of the Rockies during January. There were several cold periods during these 4 months but they were of short duration. Blustery weather was characteristic of March as winds were stronger than usual with temperatures averaging below normal and precipitation generally above normal. Snowfall was heavy throughout the month in the higher elevations and mountain snowpacks increased significantly.

The 1970 growing season began with cold, wet and windy weather. April temperatures averaged 5 degrees below normal and precipitation fell mostly as snow. Severe blizzard conditions were experienced on the 27-28th of April in central Montana with snowfall reported up to 36 inches east and north of Lewistown. May continued the wet trend but temperatures were not as cold. Total precipitation amounts during the month were well above normal. Drier and warmer weather returned during June with the number of days with 90° or warmer near a record for the month at many stations. Heavy runoff from record mountain snowpacks caused persistent low level flooding during early June along both the Gallatin and Madison rivers. Dry, warm weather returned during July and August. Beneficial precipitation was received during late July and partially offset the very hot August temperatures. After the first week, September was characterized by persistently cool temperatures. New record-low temperatures were observed at many locations in the western half of the State.

PRECIPITATION: October 1969 - September 1970

Station	Total	Normal	Depart.	Station	Total	Normal	Depart.
WESTERN DIVISION							
Darby	16.92	15.69	+ 1.23	Ovando	16.48	15.95	+ 0.53
Drummond	15.13	11.36*	+ 3.77	Pleasant Valley	15.32	18.84	- 3.52
East Anaconda	10.90	13.22	- 2.32	Polson Kerr Dam	17.53	15.03	+ 2.50
Fortine IN	13.54	17.63	- 4.09	St. Ignatius	20.85	15.10	+ 5.75
Hamilton	13.81	12.22	+ 1.59	Stevensville	11.79	12.71	- 0.92
Heron 2NW	34.53	34.34	+ 0.29	Superior	15.49	16.35	- 0.86
Kalispell WSO	16.03	15.42	+ 0.61	Thompson Falls	21.40	20.80	- 0.60
Libby INE RS	14.34	18.47	- 4.13	West Glacier	27.87	28.06	- 0.19
Missoula WSO	14.18	12.83	++ 1.35				
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION							
Belgrade FAA	16.86	13.40*	+ 3.46	Lima	11.45	10.50	+ 0.95
Bozeman MSU	20.72	17.38	+ 3.34	Norris-Madison PH	20.22	17.71	+ 2.51
Butte FAA	9.87	11.48	- 1.61	Virginia City	19.29	13.95	+ 5.34
Dillon FAA	12.08	9.07*	+ 3.01	West Yellowstone	21.50	21.22	+ 0.28
Ennis	13.08	10.57	+ 2.51	Whitehall 7E	11.07	9.63	+ 1.44
Hebgen Dam	31.60	25.84	+ 5.76				
NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION							
Babb 6NE	16.91	19.55	- 2.64	Fort Assiniboine	12.84	11.25	+ 1.59
Big Sandy	14.20	12.06	+ 2.14	Fort Benton	14.91	14.46*	+ 0.45
Browning	12.27	14.81	- 2.54	Harlem	9.05	12.30	- 3.25
Chinook	13.00	12.52	+ 0.48	Havre WSO	11.27	11.89	- 0.62
Choteau	14.16	11.45	+ 2.71	Malta	14.04	11.84	+ 2.20
Conrad	11.51	12.18	- 0.67	Simpson 6NW	10.52	10.20	+ 0.32
Cut Bank FAA	12.58	11.53	+ 1.05	Telegraph Creek	17.93	11.27	+ 6.66
Dunkirk 14NNE	12.34	11.61	+ 0.73	Valier	14.87	12.76	+ 2.11
Fairfield	9.57	11.72	- 2.15				

* Estimated normal.

PRECIPITATION: October 1969 - September 1970 (Cont'd)

Station	Total	Normal	Depart.	Station	Total	Normal	Depart.
<u>CENTRAL DIVISION</u>							
Augusta	12.62	13.83	- 1.21	Martinsdale 3NNW	12.83	13.19	- 0.36
Cascade 5S	12.16	14.27	- 2.11	Melstone	15.80	11.90	+ 3.90
Flatwillow 4ENE	15.33	12.57	+ 2.76	Moccasin Exp. Sta.	16.17	13.73	+ 2.44
Gibson Dam	18.01	17.49	+ 0.52	Roundup	11.85	10.93	+ 0.92
Great Falls WSO	14.51	14.07	+ 0.44	Stanford 2NE	11.92	14.96	- 3.04
Helena WSO	9.59	10.85	- 1.26	White Sul. Sprgs.	11.08	15.91	- 4.83
Holter Dam	9.53	12.49	- 2.96	Winifred	15.23	12.85	+ 2.38
Lewistown FAA	19.00	16.52	+ 2.48				
<u>SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION</u>							
Ballantine	16.03	11.58	+ 4.45	Hysham	13.44	11.32	+ 2.12
Big Timber	16.75	14.36	+ 2.39	Livingston FAA	18.20	14.37	+ 3.83
Bridger	14.59	10.23	+ 4.36	Mystic Lake	29.13	24.02	+ 5.11
Billings WSO	16.08	13.23	+ 2.85	Rapalje 4S	16.32	12.95	+ 3.37
Busby	20.69	12.03	+ 8.66	Red Lodge	31.27	20.02	+11.25
Columbus	13.92	13.26	+ 0.66	Wyola	21.65	14.17*	+ 7.48
Huntley Exp. Sta.	15.75	11.48	+ 4.27				
<u>NORTHEASTERN DIVISION</u>							
Circle	14.20	11.33*	+ 2.87	Lustre 4NNW	16.12	11.42	+ 4.70
Culbertson	14.94	12.84	+ 2.10	Medicine Lake 3SE	17.52	12.77	+ 4.75
Fort Peck	11.04	11.02	+ 0.02	Poplar	16.26	12.58	+ 3.68
Glasgow WSO	10.75	12.27	- 1.52	Savage	16.84	13.41	+ 3.43
Glendive	16.56	12.73	+ 3.83	Sidney	14.74	13.48	+ 1.26
Haxby 18SW	15.33	12.90	+ 2.43	Vida	17.80	15.24	+ 2.56
Jordan	14.50	10.31	+ 4.19				
<u>SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION</u>							
Broadus	13.43	13.85	- 0.42	Miles City FAA	15.23	12.17	+ 3.06
Colstrip	16.21	15.13	+ 1.08	Plevna	16.73	12.60	+ 4.13
Forsyth	13.29	12.17*	+ 1.12	Terry	10.45	10.24*	- 0.21
Mildred	13.83	12.36	+ 1.47	Wibaux	20.86	14.45*	+ 6.41

* Estimated normal.

R. A. Dightman
Meteorologist-in-Charge

